



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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17 FEBRUARY 1965

~~TOP SECRET~~



DAILY BRIEF
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1. Vietnam

Viet Cong military activity continues to be relatively light. Confirmation of today's press reports of major clashes near Saigon has not yet been received. No unusual Chinese, North Vietnamese, or Soviet military moves have been noted.

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The military-civilian council was set up today to serve as the National Legislative Council until a national assembly is elected. The 20 members, six of them military, represent a cross-section of Vietnamese political and religious groups. Ambassadors Taylor and Johnson talked today with Premier Quat, who seems confident his cabinet satisfies the various religious factions.

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2. Congo

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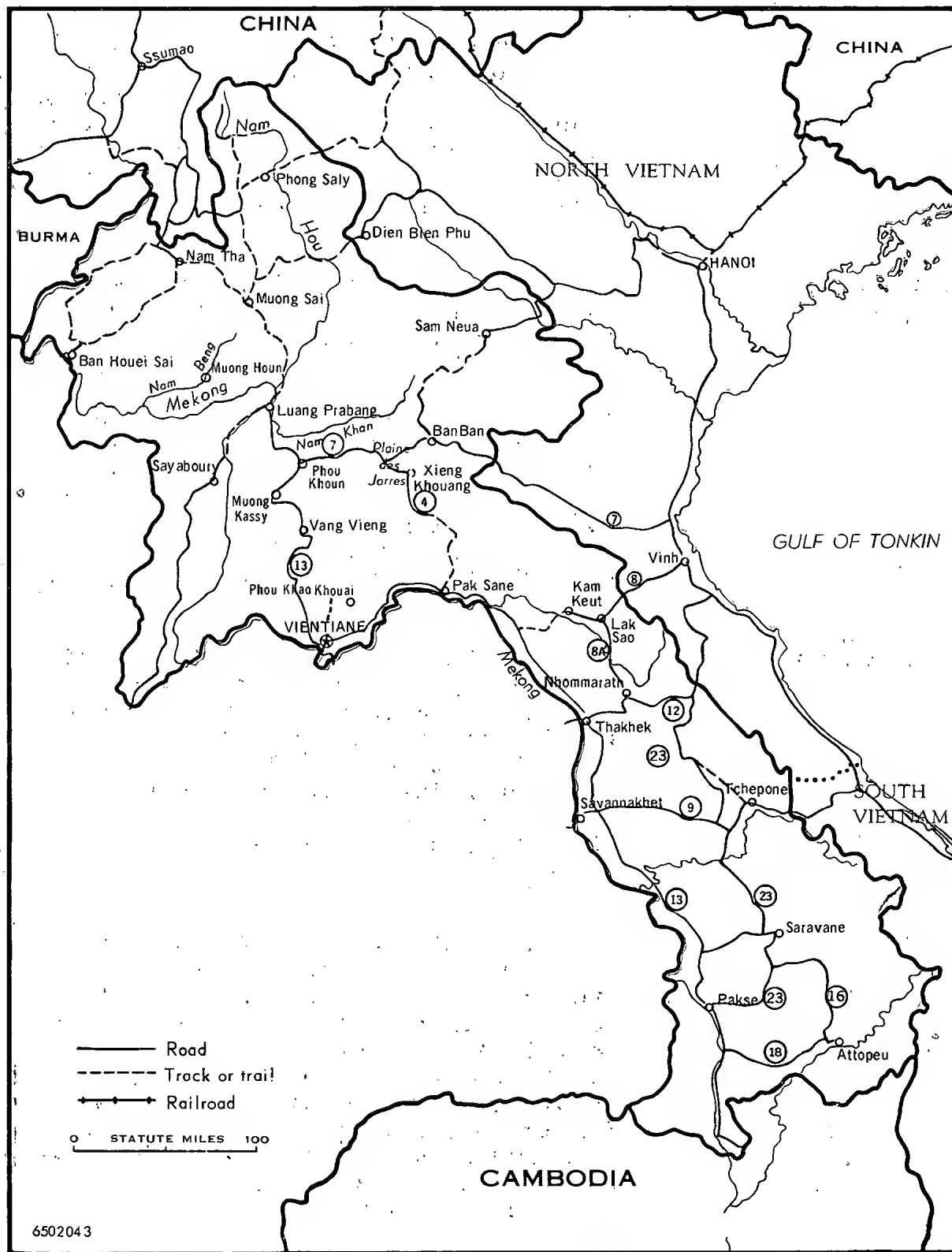
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3. Sudan

Negotiations for a change in the leftist-dominated government have stalled. The non-Communist parties, so far thwarted in their effort to bring off a bloodless coup, are again suggesting they may resort to force.

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LAOS



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4. USSR

ZOND-2, the Soviet Mars probe launched on 30 November, apparently will fail in its mission: [REDACTED] 50X1

[REDACTED] Moscow has not 50X1
announced any contact with the vehicle made later than 18 December.

5. Laos

US officials in Vientiane are speculating that the recent Communist attacks in the northeast may be the start of more aggressive activity. There is evidence of continuing build-up of Communist strength in south-central Laos, and this may be the next area of stepped-up fighting. Much of the build-up appears to consist of North Vietnamese; road-watch teams report a substantial movement of trucks and troops coming in from the DRV during February. (Map)

6. Malaysia

The Indonesians are still trying to weaken Malaysia by exploiting the existing frictions between Chinese-controlled Singapore and the Malay-dominated central government. [REDACTED] 50X1

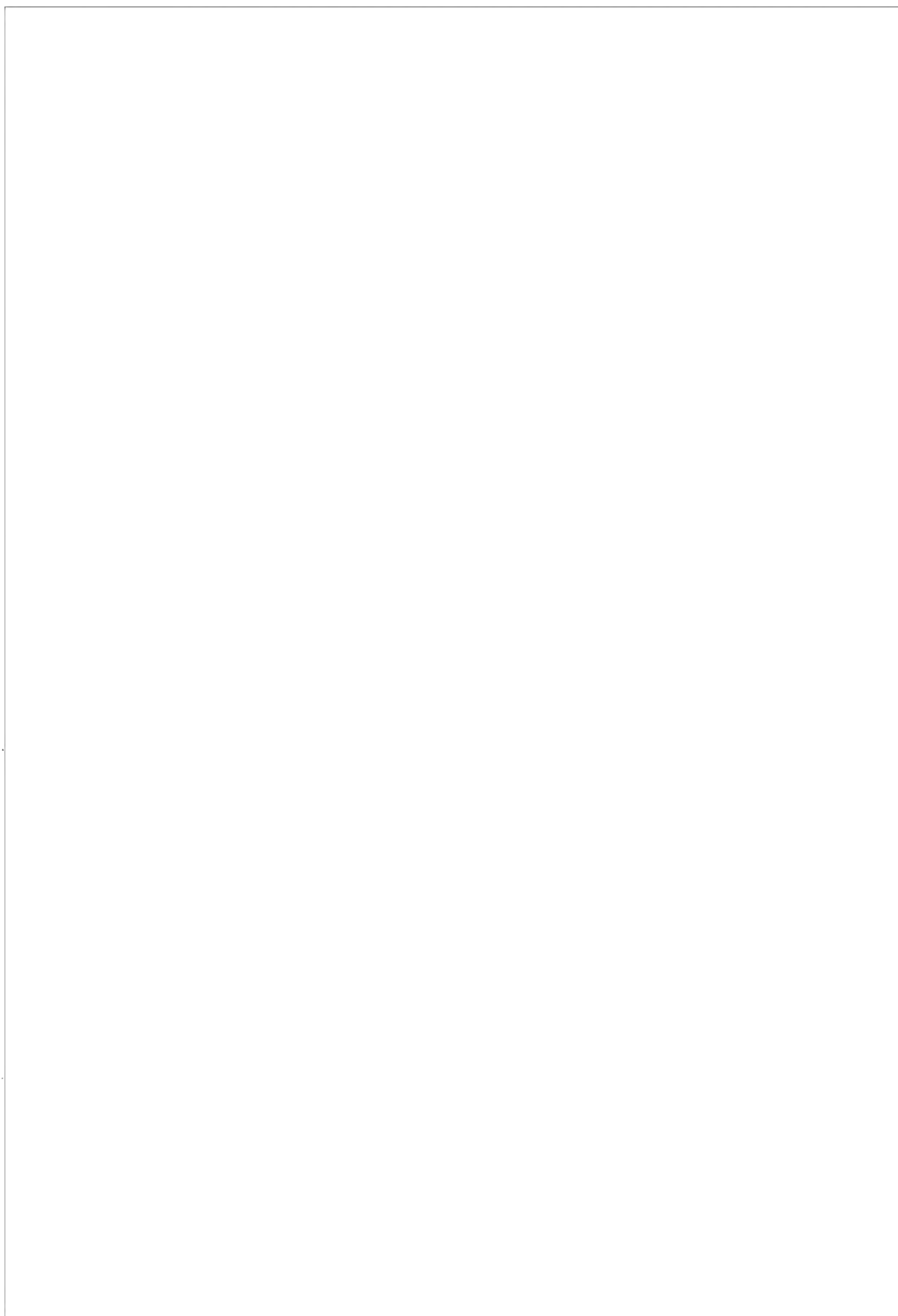
7. UN

The Albanian call for a return to normal voting in the UN yesterday was probably intended to force a US-USSR confrontation over Article 19. [REDACTED] 50X1

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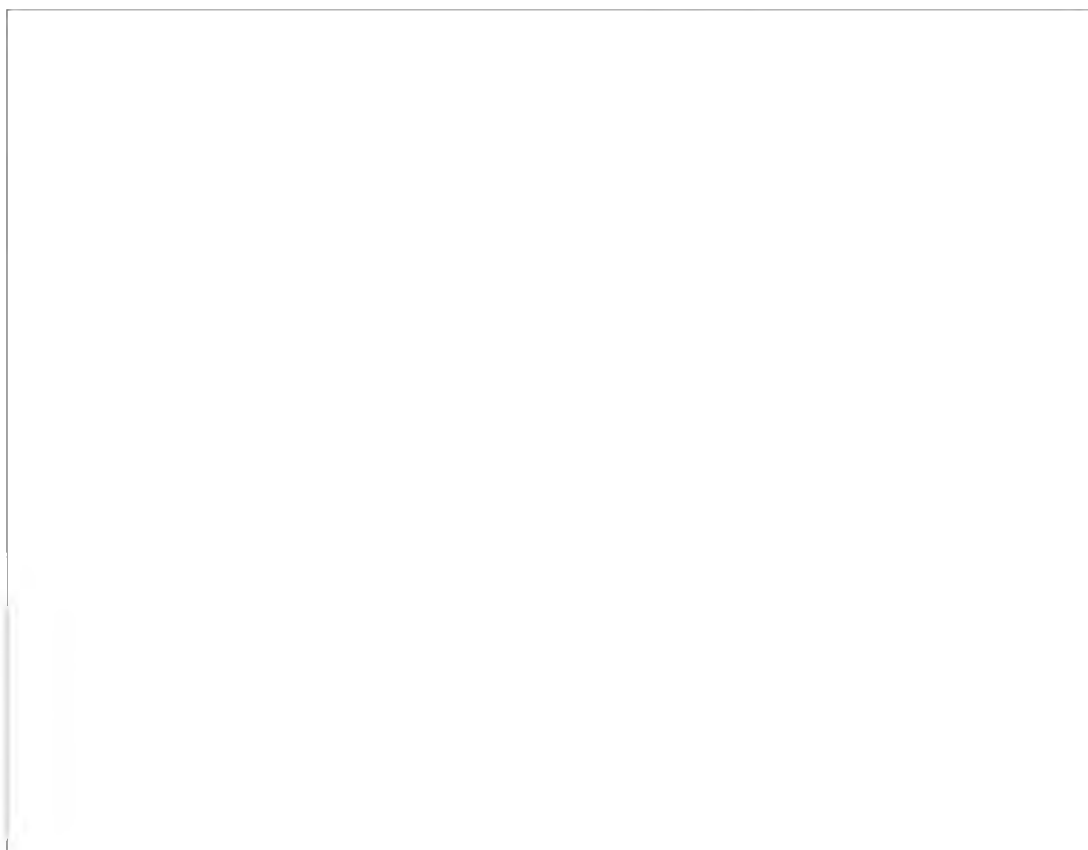
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